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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Hungary/Greece

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[CONFIDENTIAL]

DATE DISTR. 29 March 1948

SUBJECT The Petöfi Brigade

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1. The strength of Petöfi Brigade which was formed from recruits in Hungary to serve with the Andartes is estimated to be between 3,000 and 5,000.

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Comment: The number actually with General Markos' Army is unknown.)

2. The recruiting has been done by the Hungarian Communist Party on the district level. The names of the candidates are then referred to the Communist Party Central Committee at Acaademia Utca 7, Budapest, or to the Hungarian Partisans League. The applicants are screened by the Hungarian political Police and by the Military Political Section of the Ministry of War. The final investigation is conducted by a Russian Intelligence unit at Vilma Kiralyne Utca 30. The recruits are evaluated as to military capabilities by Lieutenant General Ladislaus Solyom, who is also the President of the Hungarian Partisans League, and Colonel Kálmán Révay, Commanding Officer of the Hungarian Army officers Kossuth Academy and a member of the Partisan League. The Petöfi Brigade officers are chosen from trusted Communists. Many are former Hungarian PW's trained in the Soviet Union at the Kiev Partisan School.
3. The recruits are disguised as workmen dispatched individually to Greece via Rumania and Yugoslavia. They are trained in guerrilla tactics and are armed with Soviet weapons while in Yugoslavia. Training centers were also recently established at Esztergom and Vár-Palota in Hungary. The Brigade units are patterned after Soviet Army units.
4. The recruits receive 2,000 forints when accepted, and an additional 8,000 is paid to a relative designated as trustee when the recruit leaves Hungary to join the Brigade.

5. Information concerning the Brigade is treated as secret in Hungary. Except for screening and advice on military organization and tactics by the Military Political Section, the Ministry of War contributes nothing.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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